

THE VOTE.
APRIL 29, 1927.

FIGHT FOR THE BILL!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
NON-PARTY.

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1927

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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XXIX.—WHEN I AM M.P.

Mrs. BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD, Prospective Liberal Candidate for Gorton Division of Manchester.

If, at the next Parliamentary Election, it should be my happy fortune to be returned as M.P. for the Gorton Division of Manchester, I should certainly feel that a great honour and a greater responsibility had been placed upon me. No more important task can be undertaken than that of making laws to govern the well-being and progress of men, women and children in this great country.

First, to my mind, would rise the question of Peace abroad and at home. To be in accord with the peoples of the world, and join with them in governing the passions, and arbitrating—through the League of Nations—on those ambitions and misunderstandings which till now have ended in the death and destruction, not alone of lives and possessions, but of progress and happiness—would indeed be a great ideal.

Peace in the ranks of industry will never be gained till it is realised that through various agencies a big change has come over the people, calling for great alterations in the industrial system of the last century.

To meet this, the Liberal Party has a well thought out Policy, under which Labour will be associated with the management of industry, giving it greater knowledge and a voice in the conduct of affairs. Co-partnership and profit-sharing would lead to an interest and a better understanding of difficulties, and this would command my attention, the whole policy being subject to revision

in the light of ever growing knowledge on both sides.

Then there is the great Land question, which, together with the Housing of the people, is urgent and fascinating. Indeed, it does appear as though neither Conservative nor Labour has been able successfully to

tackle the provision of small and inexpensive houses for the people, which was one of the active Liberal measures cut off by the war, and so imperative—concerning as it does the health and morality of the people—that any practical measure brought forward would have my sincere support.

In regard to the Land, although much of our policy would take considerable time to frame, to my mind the section dealing with the developments of dairy industries seems both practical and possible, and this, with certain other agreed points, I should press for as a first great measure. I have always been and am still a strong upholder of Free Trade, and should work to retain this system.

But if we are putting all this new responsibility on the people, we must see that they obtain an education which shall fit them for these new duties.

An uneducated democracy is a mob, and the central idea of education should be teaching the people the great lessons of self-reliance and self-control. In this connection the education of the adolescent assumes important proportion, and would to me be a matter for constant and careful thought.



MRS. BEATRICE BAYFIELD.

As a helper at an Infant Welfare Centre for five or six years, it has been my good fortune to get personal knowledge of the lives of the mothers and children, and the extension of this work, together indeed with all measures connected with women and children, would have to be the special study of the very small group of women M.P.s.

As a professional woman, who has had to fight her way for years, many of the troubles and cares which befall men and women have been mine, and I would not have missed one hardship, or a single ill-usage, which has brought me the practical knowledge to help make happier the lives of men and women, if ever it is my happy duty to go to Westminster as a woman M.P.

BEATRICE A. BAYFIELD.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Swim in All Weathers.

The Ken Wood Regulars' Swimming Club have a band of women members who meet, winter and summer, every Saturday and Sunday, for a swim in the Ken Wood pool. They have just held a competition for a challenge cup and gold and silver medal, marking the end of the winter season.

The London County Council Mistake.

The L.C.C. General Purposes Sub-Committee recommends the Council to oppose the Married Women (Employment) Bill introduced into the House of Commons by Sir Robert Newman.

Women in the House.

Mrs. Wintringham has been widely reported as saying: "If there were more women in Parliament, the House of Commons might be rechristened the House of Common Sense."

Women Air Pilots.

The Directorate of Civil Aviation to the Air Ministry states that it has been decided to grant licences to women for public transport in this country on the same standards of general physical efficiency as for men. The medical re-examination will be every three months.

Irish University Women.

The Irish Federation of University Women meets next week in Belfast, in annual conference. The Vice-Chancellor of Queen's has given the University buildings for the Conference, and will also address it.

Australian Immigrant Girls.

An official of the Labour Bureau, Mrs. M. R. Lukin, has been appointed to board ships arriving in Australia with girl immigrants, and to take full charge of the girls and to see them placed in suitable positions. It is also suggested that women welfare officers should sail on the boats with the girls, and that a woman adviser should be attached to Australia House in London.

Quebec Women ask for Municipal Suffrage.

The Quebec Premier received a large delegation of Quebec women who asked for the provincial and municipal vote. The Premier replied that if a woman merely voted as her husband did, the vote was of no advantage; if she voted differently, the home would be split. To this, a delegate observed that the home had remained unsplit, although the women already had the Dominion vote, and Quebec was the sole province refusing the municipal vote to women.

Democratic Women and Law Enforcement.

The women of the Democratic Party in America are clear on what they consider to be essential to good government. Just now it is law enforcement, and they have recently given publicity to their demand that Presidential candidates, to win their support, must, in their turn, support the Constitution and the enforcement of all law.

Women receive the White Lion.

Mary E. McDowell, Commissioner of Public Welfare of Chicago, and Julia C. Lathrop, first Chief of the Children's Bureau in the United States Department of Labour, have been given the Czechoslovakian Order of the White Lion.

Woman on Board of Regents.

Mrs. Herbert L. Pratt has the distinction of being the first woman appointed on the New York State Board of Regents. She ran as Republican candidate, defeating Mrs. Draper, the Democratic candidate.

Woman Assistant Attorney-General.

Mrs. Emma Fall Schofield has resigned her position as Commissioner on the Massachusetts Industrial Accident Board, in order to take up her appointment as Assistant Attorney-General of Massachusetts.

Woman Counsel on Claims Commission.

Miss Hope Thompson has served on the Special Claims Commission for the United States and Mexico for over a year as attorney, and has now been chosen as one of the four lawyers to act as counsel.

Woman Rifle Champion.

Miss Ann Botsford, one of the best rifle shots in the United States, is captain of the University of Kansas rifle team, the champion team of the States.

New York State Restricts Women's Hours.

Governor Smith has finally signed the Bill restricting women and children together from working over 48 hours per week. Men are still free from this limitation.

Women's Advance in Mexico.

A comprehensive programme of the extension of power and opportunity to women has been drawn up by a Special Commission of the Secretariat of the Interior of Mexico, and is to be submitted to the President next month. If approved by the Chief Executive, the President has power to promulgate it at once.

Frenchwoman Substitute Delegate.

Mademoiselle Chaptal has been appointed substitute delegate for France on the League of Nations Committee for the Protection of Children.

Paris Midinettes and the Academy.

The Paris Midinettes have worked up considerable anger over the refusal of the Academy to include "Midinette" in their new dictionary. The holders of the name marched in procession to the Institut de France, and there toppled a statue of one of the Academicians into the Seine.

Femina Vie Heureuse.

The award of the Femina Vie Heureuse Prize from France for the best English novel by new authors, for last year, has been made to Miss Radclyffe-Hall for "Adam's Breed." The runners-up were "Lolly Willows," by Sylvia Townsend Warner, and "The Informer," by Liam O'Flaherty.

Motion for Women Suffrage Approved.

The Swiss *Grand Conseil* accepted, by 66 votes to 41, a motion to grant votes to women.

Swiss Women Refused Ministry.

Last month, the Synod of the National Protestant Church in Geneva, after a brief discussion, rejected a proposal to admit Swiss women to the pastorate. *Le Mouvement Féministe* regrets what it describes as a wrong step, and declares that when Swiss women are voters this step will be retraced.

Woman as Mayor.

In Berlin, during the absence on leave of the Mayor, a woman, for the first time, carried on the Mayoral duties. She was Councillor Klara Weyl. One of her duties was to act as Chairman at the meetings of the Berlin Town Council.

Hungarian Woman Member.

Only one woman, Anna Kethly, Social Democrat, was elected in the recent Hungarian elections,

NOTES FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS.

The April number of *Die Frau im Staat* includes several interesting articles, two of which refer to the problems raised by the now famous diary, "Von Leben Getödet." The organised women of Bremen have taken active steps in regard to the alleged conditions prevailing in the police hospital, and to the treatment received there by women and girls. The City Council, on the motion of the Social Democrats, has considered the matter at a meeting which lasted six hours. The Association for Women's Interests, an organisation which includes women of all shades of opinion, organised a great meeting on the need for women police, which was addressed by Josephine Erkens—the woman Police Commissioner at Frankfurt. A resolution was unanimously carried, urging the appointing of women police, the establishment of continuation schools for all girls, and the appointment at the Young People's Office of a woman superintendent, an additional number of welfare workers, and a woman doctor for the examination of children and girls.

Le Mouvement Féministe states that, with the support of all political Parties, the Lower House of the Japanese Parliament has adopted a measure which, after an interval of three years, will abolish all existing licensed brothels and prevent the establishment of any further ones.

Two women—Princess Lantacuzeno and Mme. Romniciano—both prominent members of the Roumanian National Council of Women, have been elected to the Bucharest City Council, out of the seven women candidates put forward by the various organised women. The Roumanian Council is proposing to build a "Women's House," which will be a centre for their activities. The land has already been bought, and the plans of the building prepared. The building will

include large shops for the sale of women's clothing and other goods, an exhibition hall, a hostel and restaurant, a library, and various rooms for lectures and courses.

Dealing with the plight of the mother of a large family in these days of scarce labour, the *Schweizer Frauenblatt* refers to an organisation that has recently been formed in America to give such women help in their homes and some free time at the week-end. This association has petitioned Congress to ask that it shall be made the law for women without the responsibility of children—whether married or single—to give assistance in the homes of women with large families on one day in the week. No statement is made as to the reception of the petition.

There has been a great decline in the number of marriages and births in Italy, and the Government—with a view to increasing the birth-rate—has decided to give special help and protection to the pregnant woman and new-born child. In 1920, 509,000 marriages took place in Italy; last year the number had fallen to 300,000. The housing shortage is one of the factors that has seriously operated against marriage, and measures are now to be taken against landlords who refuse to take tenants with families. It is also proposed to tax celibacy. In addressing his Ministers, M. Mussolini is reported by *La Française* to have stated: "During the whole of his life, the celibate enjoys enormous advantages without providing new citizens for the State. In old age, the celibate, old and infirm, becomes a charge on the public funds, and we say to him: 'What have you done for the State?' The family is the foundation of the State. . . . We cannot force men to marry, but it is possible to make the life of the single man more onerous than that of the married one."

A PLEA FOR THE OVER-THIRTIES.

Much has been written, and a great deal of that "much" arrant nonsense, about votes for women at 21. We have seen headline after headline, varying between "Votes for Flappers" and "Votes for Girls." An apparently complete oblivion has descended upon the journalistic mind of the existence already, and apparently without any traceable damage to the nation, of "Votes for Cubs" and "Votes for Boys." We have been given, in the columns of the Press, almost without exception, some really astounding descriptions of the woman of 21. If only one-tenth of the painful characteristics there attributed to her were true, she should be shut up, away from any possible contact with others. She should certainly not be allowed loose among the erstwhile strong sex. Has not one so high as a Cecil burst into nervous outcry that all men are either irritated or attracted by all women? Both irritation and attraction appear to have somewhat devastating effects upon those considered fit to vote. And the blessed young woman herself proceeds calmly on her way, unconscious of her dangerous and detrimental effect in the world.

Another group calls her "Miss 1927," and finds in her a great number of virtues, quite absent in the articles written round her desire to vote. As "Miss 1927," the worst that can be said of her is that she is copying the bad habits, as well as the good habits, of "Master 1927." She does not, however, and I here judge only by what I read, appear to have yet caught up with him in badness, but in some of his goodnesses to have caught up, and, indeed, left him behind.

Now I see a good deal of the young woman, both under and over 21, and am convinced, from that experience, that she will not be kept out of any rights of citizenship, any opportunities of occupation, which may be denied to her while open to her brothers. Once she becomes aware of an obstacle in her path, it is the

obstacle and not she who is inconvenienced. While one peculiarly foolish paper bleated the queries, "Where is the demand for the vote?" "Where are the broken windows?" "Has one single stone been thrown?" "Has one single building been burnt?" the young suffragist writes daily to the head of the Government, the Prime Minister himself, calling his attention to his pledges and her own need of their fulfilment.

No, it is not the "under 30" who is to be pitied in this matter of being voteless. This three million has received all the publicity and is bearing it well. I want attention paid to the other two million women over 30, but so domiciled that they are voteless. One may have them in one's mind, but they take about 500 words to explain, and so do not lend themselves to the snappy par. so prevalent in the Press to-day. Whatever the cause, not only are journalists silent about them, but no writer, distinguished or undistinguished, ever mentions them. And yet there are two million of them, and none of the arguments used against the "under 30" apply to them. The voteless "over 30" is an adult, independent, self-supporting woman, preponderantly, it is estimated, of the higher professional class. For this type of woman, surely the support of all who believe in women entering the world of paid work should be ardent; while, for the other type, the woman living with her parents and so also disfranchised, surely the support of all who believe that woman's place is the home should equally be forthcoming.

On the recent deputation to the Prime Minister, it was noticeable that the speakers, all of whom were women, did bring into prominence the "over 30," and one must hope that the persistent and, it must be admitted, somewhat boring, insistence in the Press on the "under 30," to the complete ignoring of her two million "over 30" disfranchised fellows, will not wipe out of the minds of the supporters of Equal Franchise the fact of her existence and of her importance.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

FIGHT FOR THE BILL!

During the past fortnight we have had many welcome communications from our members on the subject of Mr. Baldwin's promise of an Equal Franchise Bill. Some of them, however, seem a little inclined to take for granted that the Equal Franchise cause is already won. While we are hopeful of the early success of our cause, we feel bound to point out that an Equal Franchise measure is not yet on the Statute Book, and we again repeat that, although the equal enfranchisement of women and men in this country is within sight, it is certainly not yet within reach. All that has really happened is this—the Government has decided to introduce a Bill during the next Session for extending the Parliamentary franchise to women of 21 years of age and upwards on the same terms as men. We recognise that the definite promise of a Government measure for Equal Franchise is a distinct advance on anything we have hitherto obtained, and we firmly believe that Mr. Baldwin will do his best to carry this Bill into law. On the other hand, we know that in his Party there are very strong opponents to this measure. For weeks past there has been a very noisy section of the Press voicing their antagonism, all the old remaining anti-suffragists having been dragged once again into the light of day to fill pages with their photographs and messages against the folly of giving more votes to women! Encouraged by their efforts, several Conservative M.P.s in the last week have addressed their constituents and boldly stated that they are against giving votes to girls of 21, and have advocated the raising of the voting age in this country to 25. In some constituencies, it is reported that a show of hands at Conservative meetings has proved that the majority of people are in favour of a higher voting age! No Government can legislate in direct opposition to public opinion, and the only public opinion which is at present apparently being fostered in the country is against Mr. Baldwin's Equal Franchise proposal. Women must rally to the support of their cause and show Mr. Baldwin and the Government that in every constituency there is strong public opinion in favour of this Government proposal, and every pressure must be exerted on Members of Parliament belonging to all Parties to support this Equal Franchise measure. The more women show their enthusiasm for it and their determination to see it on the Statute Book at the earliest possible date, the less likely is any "unexpected catastrophe" to prevent them from voting at the same age and on equal terms with men at the next election. Women who have had years of experience in the fight for the political enfranchisement of their sex know full well how often "unexpected catastrophes" have snatched away their victory. Let it not be laid to our charge that, through apathy or too credulous hope, we have failed our cause when victory is so clearly in sight, but let all of us, members of the Women's Freedom League or belonging to any other Society, unite together and work as we have never before worked in every constituency throughout the land to arouse active public opinion in favour of our cause, and to make its success absolutely certain in the near future.

SOUTH AFRICAN SUFFRAGISTS REVOLT.

While British women are rallying for what they intend to make the last round of a too prolonged struggle for equality of franchise, South African women are just discovering that they are being forced into a similar struggle. What British women learnt 20 years ago, South African women are painfully and reluctantly, but courageously and firmly, realising to-day.

For many years now, South African women have asked for the franchise on the same terms as men. For more years they have worked for their political Parties. Gradually they have brought the question of their own enfranchisement to the front; gradually they have won lip service and paper promises of support. But, put to the test of committal, introduced as a Bill in the Union Parliament, even a First Reading was refused decisively.

As in Britain, the older constitutional suffragists went on year after year suffering defeat, suffering mockery, suffering trickery, until a young woman said: "No, this is not right," and more active, more public methods were adopted, leading gradually to militancy and imprisonment, just so does it seem to be happening in South Africa. Always the women there have said they would like to be enfranchised on the same terms as the men. Now, suddenly, they say: "No, this is not right," and they announce their intention of adopting more active methods. Militancy, as in its later stages in Britain, is deplored, and we share the hope of South African women that they will find some easier path to victory. Reading the Quarterly of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, we find the same spirit, the same fire as was lit in Britain 20 years ago.

A leader in the Quarterly gives an account of the refusal of a First Reading for their Franchise Bill in Parliament, on February 1st, 1927. The writer discusses the political aspect, and sums up as follows:—"One point stands out clearly, and that is, for some Party reason, the interests of women were sacrificed. The answer of suffragists was given at a large meeting in Cape Town, when a resolution was passed, that women should pledge themselves to abstain from all Party political work unless some measure of franchise were granted to them during the Session of 1928."

An article describes the enormous amount of work women have done for their Parties before, during and after elections, and asks: "To what purpose? Only to find that in this, as well as in former years, a Bill for their enfranchisement was treated as the annual joke of the House."

Another article, describing the scene in the House and pointedly headed, "Asking for trouble," deals with the absence of some "suffragists," and the contrary vote or abstention from voting of many others. This says: "What does Parliament want? Parliament obviously wants nothing but to shelve the matter as long as it possibly can—that is as long as South African women allow it."

This lively Quarterly also prints a selection of indignant letters of protest from all over the Union, all unanimous in advocating "no vote, no work." Many meetings are announced as being held widely in the Union, at which strongly worded resolutions of protest were passed with enthusiasm, and sent to the Prime Minister.

That this righteous and most welcome stirring to wrath among the South African women on the rejection of their Bill was not a flash only, but of permanent stuff and likely to become a flame, only to be extinguished in victory, is shown by the tone of a much later meeting. The Women's South Africa Party held a Congress at Potcheitroom towards the end of April, and, to judge by *The Times'* correspondent's account, this was a lively and effective affair. There was much denunciation of those Members of Parliament who promised to vote for the Bill, and then either voted against it or abstained. A good, strong resolution was agreed to, and the general summing-up was: "No vote, no canvass."

TREATMENT OF YOUNG OFFENDERS.

Report of the Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders, issued by H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. Price 2s. 6d. nett.

The Departmental Committee responsible for this very valuable Report was appointed in January, 1925, by the present Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson-Hicks, and consisted of ten men, together with a man secretary (Mr. McAlpine, of the Home Office), and three women—Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, J.P., the Hon. Lady Lawrence, and the Hon. Lady Lyttelton. Sir Evelyn Cecil, M.P., was appointed Chairman of this Committee, but the following month he resigned because of illness, and his place was taken by Sir Thomas F. Molony. The business of this Committee was to inquire into the treatment of young offenders and young people who, owing to bad associations or surroundings, require protection and training, and to report what changes, if any, are desirable in the present law or in the administration. Since January, 1925, the Committee met 81 times and examined 99 witnesses.

At the beginning of this Report, a short historical sketch is given of the origin and development of the present methods of dealing with young delinquents; in the Report itself consideration is given mainly to persons under 21. A great deal of space is given to the discussion of the composition, the work and powers of Juvenile Courts, and it is recommended that the Juvenile Court should have jurisdiction to deal with all offences (except homicide) committed by persons under 17; further, that no child under 8 (instead of at present 7) should be charged with any offence. In London there are nine Juvenile Courts, in seven of which Metropolitan magistrates preside, and are assisted in each case by two justices, one man and one woman. In the remaining two Courts, Metropolitan magistrates sit alone. In Juvenile Courts outside London, the selection of magistrates is haphazard. Many of the Benches have a special rota for the Juvenile Court, and where there are women magistrates, they are usually found on the rota, but the practice is not universal, and some Benches have no women magistrates, and the Report proposes that the Lord Chancellor (and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) should be asked, in appointing Justices of the Peace, to include a sufficient number of men and women who have special qualifications for dealing with children and young persons. It is also stated that younger magistrates are required. Throughout the Report it is urged that there should be closer co-operation between the Juvenile Court and the Local Education Authority; and, further, that there should be power to transfer to the Local Education Authority the guardianship of a child or young person, who must be moved from the control of his parents, but who does not need institutional training. It would be the duty of the Local Education Authority to find a new home for him, and to watch over his future welfare. The cost should be borne by local funds, subject to a Government grant. When young offenders are brought to police stations to be charged, it is urged that a special room should be provided, if practicable, and a police matron or policeman should be available to look after girls and young children. Charges against young persons under 17 should be dealt with as early as possible after their arrival at the police station.

With regard to Bail and Remand, the Report advocates that the fullest use should be made of bail to avoid any unnecessary remand of young persons in custody; but, when custody is required, it is pointed out that it may be possible, in some cases, to find alternative accommodation to police cells, especially for young women, in a voluntary Home, or, if that is not available, in a Poor Law Institution. Much better facilities are required for the examination and observation of young offenders under 21, both by the Juvenile Court and the Adult Court, and for this purpose at least three Observation Centres or Central Remand Homes should be provided by the State in convenient places.

The Report gives an exhaustive survey of our Probation System. Probation must not lack firmness. The offender should be made to realise the seriousness of his position, and definite conditions suited to the particular case should be inserted in the Probation Order. The work of the Probation Officer must include visits to the homes of his probationers. A woman or girl should always be placed under the supervision of a woman Probation Officer, and as successful probation depends mainly on the qualities of the Probation Officer, the best available candidates should be selected.

Females cannot be whipped, and the Report strongly deprecates any indiscriminate use of whipping. There should be a medical examination in all cases, and the parent or guardian should have a right to be present. The Court should consider the character of the offender rather than the nature of the offence. Subject to these safeguards, the Report states that Courts should be enabled to order a whipping in respect of any serious offence committed by a boy under 17. Mrs. Cadbury, Mr. Rhys Davies, and Sir Wemyss Grant-Wilson, however, in a separate Memorandum, say they are not satisfied that whipping ordered by a Court of Law serves a useful purpose, and do not, therefore, agree with this recommendation of the Committee.

The Committee recommends that the distinction between reformatory and industrial schools should be abolished, and the terms "reformatory" and "industrial" should be abandoned. They should be described as schools approved by the Secretary of State, and women should be included among the managers, both in boys' and girls' schools. The age of committal should be over 10 and under 17. Further, imprisonment should be abolished for young persons up to the age of 17, except when a certificate of unruliness or depravity is given, the alternative to imprisonment being fines, probation, a State school, or Borstal training. With regard to preventive measures, the Committee believe that much valuable preventive work could be done by policewomen.

An excellent description is given of the various Borstal Institutions and their work. The Committee shows unabated enthusiasm for the training given at Borstal Institutions for lads; but it is not so sure of the beneficial results of the Aylesbury Institution for Girls. Take the following quotation: "The whole problem of the treatment of delinquent girls and young women is hedged with difficulties. There was general agreement that this group, which is considerably smaller than that of lads, has been proved to be more difficult to deal with satisfactorily. Hitherto, the treatment of both sexes has followed the same broad lines, but the experience of recent years, especially in Reformatory Schools for Girls and the Borstal Institution at Aylesbury, gives rise to the speculation whether the handling of the problem has been right, or whether different methods ought to be pursued. Some experienced social workers advocated the greater use, especially in the case of girls, of hostels, that is to say, residential Homes, where the offender lives under supervision, but goes out daily to some daily occupation."

This is a clear proof of the failure of men Prison Commissioners in regard to their treatment of girl and women delinquents. If, on the Prison Commission, there had been women understanding members of their own sex, a greater variety of methods would have been applied, instead of the insistence upon stereotyped treatment identical for all. The whole thing would be absurd if it was not so tragic in its results for women and girl delinquents.

The Committee recommends that sentence of death should not be passed upon any person under the age of 18, and makes an admirable appeal for improved after-care assistance for young offenders of both sexes.

SHE-MAN AND HE-MAN.

A report recently appeared in this country of an incident in the Canadian Parliament during a debate on a vote for Cadet Training. The one woman Member, Miss Macphail, spoke against this form of expenditure of public money, on the ground that military training gave growth to a military spirit. In replying, a Conservative Member used the phrase: "We do not want a class of she-men." This brought Miss Macphail up again, to protest against the term "she-men." She declared that it was used in a sense insulting to womanhood. We are glad that Miss Macphail spoke as she did. Although this particular form of insult is becoming rare in public, there are still to be found thoughtless and slow-minded people who utter it. The feeling that causes the insult is still prevalent, and is the same as that which Rose Macaulay so neatly mocks at as it is expressed in the Press. As she says, a reporter will write: "Women were in the crowd that watched," "A huge crowd assembled, among whom were women," "There was a panic, and women were frightened." Always the presence of women is noted, as if it was strange and unnatural, their fear is noted, they scream accented, while the presence of men, the panic of men, and the screams of men are natural, and not "news." With the exception of the still-surviving type of woman who simulates and even cultivates fear, with the intention of attracting male sympathy and support, there is nowadays nothing to choose between men and women in the matter of courage, or in behaviour under sudden danger. The noisily frightened woman is balanced by the fussily frightened man, who takes to his bed if his finger aches, and demands the sympathy and support of a whole household.

A group of incidents taken at random from recent papers shows how reluctantly the male mind, directing his pen, can give any credit to women. A description was given of the escape of a monkey from its basket in a bar. The reporter got off his stock phrase about a panic, in which the women screamed, but then had to describe how the barmaid caught the monkey and replaced it in its basket. Another occasion, described in almost similar language, was the flourishing of a revolver in a West End lounge, which cleared the lounge of the men, but the barmaids stood their ground. Another time, a man attacked a woman on a canal bank; she hit back, and he only escaped being thrown by her into the canal by flight. Another similar attack was met by an upper-cut, which left the man unconscious, while the woman walked on calmly. But what would those, who talk of she-men as being horrors and he-men so desirable, call the young man aged 4, who shot his mother, and, later, in Court, tried to stab the Coroner? We do not believe that even the Canadian Conservative, who so despised the character of womanhood, would want to claim that little "he-man."

THE VOTING AGE.

We go to press before SIR JOHN GANZONI (C., Ipswich) asks the Prime Minister whether the Government, when they bring in their Bill next Session to enfranchise women at 21, will leave the decision on the age at which the vote shall be given to a free vote of the House? As the Cabinet have already decided that the age is to be 21 on equal terms with men, we cannot see that the Government is able to accept any amendment of this kind. Twenty-one is the voting age for men and women in the British Dominions and in India, as well as in America and in those European countries in which members of both sexes vote (with the single exception of Hungary, where men vote at 21 and women at 25). If women are to have equal voting rights with men at the next election, the vote must be given to both sexes at 21, unless the present voting age for men is also to be raised, and the present Government has certainly no mandate from the country to disfranchise, either now or in the future, any part of the community.

BOOK REVIEW.

De la Réglementation du Travail Féminin. Par Andrée Lehmann, Avocate à la Cour, Docteur en Droit, Henri d'Arthey, Librairie Universitaire, 3, Place de la Sorbonne, Paris.

This book, although written in a style easy and pleasant to read, is an encyclopædia of special legislation on woman's work. Madame Lehmann took this as the subject for her thesis for her Doctorate-in-Law, and has since enlarged and published it in book form. She traces right back to the first discoverable laws controlling industry, showing the reasons of their initiation. Madame Lehmann discusses this control of industry by legislation, in all countries of the world, and having exposed it from the beginning to the present day she exposes also its peculiar tendency to become more and more directed only to women workers, and how in such cases it takes on more and more the form of restriction. She gives the arguments advanced by men and women for and against special legislation for women, which is tending to increase so much to-day, and devotes a chapter to the feminist point of view.

The book is a mine of information and most valuable for those who are at present becoming aware of the harmful effects on the employment of women, which so frequently seem to follow on some measure ostensibly protecting them. There is matter in it to make forceful arguments for equality in industrial legislation.

H. A. A.

YOUNG LADY TO SCHOOLGIRL.

Two short articles appeared recently in the *Evening News*, which deserved more attention than they received. They dealt with the lives of schoolgirls of a past generation and of the present generation. Written by that stalwart veteran pioneer, Dame Louisa Lumsden, they contained a wealth of humour, a depth of sympathy, and a fearlessness of expression which caused them to stand out from the average supplied by daily papers. Dame Louisa describes her own schooldays with their repressive conventions, their system of sly supervision by the principals resulting in equally sly evasion by the pupils, the everlasting impression that to be a girl was somewhat disgraceful and to be a schoolgirl was almost unmentionable. One had to try to be a Young Lady attending an Academy. Dame Louisa tells how in leaving her "Academy" eager for life, she picked up a book called "My Life, What Shall I Do with It?" but soon threw it down in disgust, as all it offered was "good works." Undaunted by difficulties, Dame Louisa entered on a life devoted to that best work of all—education, becoming first tutor at Girton, Mistress at Cheltenham, Headmistress at St. Leonards, Warden of University Hall, St. Andrews, and now, at the age of 86, Lecturer on political and social subjects. She compares the life of the schoolgirl to-day with the life she herself knew and watched, in these words: "And the schoolgirl? She is the sound, healthy young creature, who, growing up, not as in the past, in an artificial hot-house atmosphere, but like a flower in the fresh air, develops into the sensible woman, the good citizen, the invaluable member of the community."

WOMEN AND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS

Since the last issue of THE VOTE, we learn that the following Councils have a woman member:—

CUCKFIELD (Sussex).—Miss Edith Annie Payne. We regret that we attached Miss Payne's name to Hayward's Heath, which has never had a woman member.

SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA.—Mrs. Mary Susan Marshall.

SHORT HEATH (Staffs).—Miss Jane Elizabeth Squire.

The following have no women on their Councils:—BICESTER (Oxon), HOLME, LUDDENDEN FOOT (Yorks), MIDGLEY (Yorks), NANTYGLO AND BLAINA (Mor.), NEWCASTLE, EMLYN (Carmarthen), NORDON (Dorset), OLD FLETON, SOYLAND (Yorks), TEDDINGTON (Middlesex), TORPOINT and WINTERTON (Lincs).

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, April 29th, at 12 noon.
Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd. Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, April 29th, at 2.30 p.m.
National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, April 30th, at 10 a.m.
Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Sunday, May 1st, 3.30—5.30 p.m.
Reception to Conference Delegates. Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square.

W.C.1. Short speeches by Delegates, tea, songs, music. All friends invited.

Friday, May 6th, at 2 p.m.

The Women's Freedom League Jumble Sale, to be held (by kind permission of Miss Cole) at The Women's Freedom League Settlement, 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W. Send your parcels from now onwards to 144, High Holborn, W.C.1., or take them with you to the Conference or the Club.

PROVINCES.

Friday, April 29th, at 3.30 p.m.

Ashford Branch. Branch Meeting at Hempsted Street Hall. Conference business, etc.

Saturday, April 30th.

Wallasey. Jumble Sale in St. Mary's Girls' Schoolroom, Liscard Road.

Saturday, May 28th.

Portsmouth. Jumble Sale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, April 29th, 7 to 9 p.m.

The Langbourn Club. Community Singing. Conductor: Mr. Gibson Young. Accompanist: Miss Green. 107, Upper Thames Street. Admission free.

Saturday, April 30th, at 5 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Marble Arch Meeting organised by Nation 1 Union of Women Teachers.

Sunday, May 1st, at 3.30 p.m.

At the Guildhouse, Eccleston Square. Tenth course of addresses: "Ancient Civilisations." Reginald A. Smith, Deputy Keeper British Museum on "Religion in the late Stone and Bronze Ages." Slides.

Sunday, May 1st, at 3.30 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Hampstead Heath Round Pond Meeting, organised by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.

Monday, May 2nd, at 7 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Meeting at Langbourn Club. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Tuesday, May 10th, at 8 p.m.

Equal Political Rights Campaign. Public Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Battersea (organised by N.U.W.T.). Speakers: Miss Agnes Dawson, L.C.C., Miss Barclay-Carter, Lic.-ès-L. Chairman: Mrs. Tidswell (N.U.W.T.).

DEPUTATION to the MINISTER OF HEALTH

A deputation from the National Council of Women of Great Britain was received by the Minister of Health, on Tuesday, 5th April, to submit to him the serious menace to the work at present done by women as Guardians should the provisional proposals for the reform of the Poor Law be carried into effect. The deputation was introduced by Hon. Mrs. Franklin, President of the Council, the speakers being Mrs. Keynes, J.P., Convener of the Public Service and Magistrates Committee of the National Council of Women; Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; and Mr. J.A. Lovat-Fraser, Joint Hon. Secretary of the State Children's Association. Others present were the Lady Emmott, J.P., Acting Vice President, and Miss Bertha Mason, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary of the National Council of Women; Miss Scott, P.L.G., Hon. Secretary of the Public Service Committee; and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, J.P., representing the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship; Miss Bradford J.P., C.C., Miss Honor Lawrence, J.P., Mrs. F. Lewis Donaldson, J.P., Mrs. Hewlett Hobbs, P.L.G., Miss Norah Green, General Secretary; and Miss Ridley, Assistant Secretary of the National Council of Women. A Memorandum had previously been forwarded to the Minister of Health, outlining the points dealt with.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain said, in reply, that personally he sympathised with the point of view of the deputation that under any changes in the administration of the Poor Law the community should not be deprived of the services of women. But it might well be the case that the proposed changes would increase the chances of Election for women to County and County Borough Councils, since the electorate would realise the importance of securing the help of women in doing the work for which they were especially qualified. Moreover these bodies could be enlarged to deal with the additional work. He further undertook to bear in mind the desirability of making the co-option of women in certain cases compulsory. The Minister pointed out that changes in electoral areas or methods did not come within the purview of his department, but must be dealt with by the Home Office.

BRANCH NOTE.

GLASGOW.

A Public Meeting of the Branch was held in McLellan Galleries, on Friday, 22nd inst. Despite holiday-time and the lateness of the season, there was a very good attendance, and it was gratifying to note the earnest tone of those present. Miss Eunice Murray, the President of the Branch, took the Chair, and spoke strongly on the absurdity of the slogan, "Votes for Flappers," when there was no mention of "Votes for Hobbledchoys," and the one was just as ridiculous as the other. She touched on the legal age at which a girl may marry, may make her will, the age of consent, and she pointed out that usually the women of 21 had more common sense than the men of that age.

Miss Anna Munro spoke on the necessity of continuing the fight until Equal Franchise was actually on the Statute Book. We knew from past experience that we could not be certain of any justice for women until it actually became law—promises were not enough. The right of the married woman to work—for pay—was dealt with, and a resolution that "This meeting of the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League is in full agreement with the provisions of Sir Robert Newman's Married Women (Employment) Bill, and earnestly requests you to be in the House of Commons on April 29th, and to give every possible support to its Second Reading," was passed unanimously. Copies to be sent to Sir Robert Newman and to all local M.P.s.

Another resolution, urging the Prime Minister to give full facilities for an Equal Franchise measure, to ensure that women should vote on the same terms as men at the next General Election, was also passed unanimously. Press notices of meeting were good.

After the collection, members of the branch remained, and the Conference resolutions were voted on, and reports from headquarters read to members. Immediate future activities include a Jumble Sale on May 14th, Concert on May 21st, and Cake and Candy Sale in June. (Hon. Sec.) L. MOSEN.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Dear Madam,—I note, in your most useful list of Urban District Councils on which women are serving, which appeared in THE VOTE of April 15th, you have given a place to Ashton-under-Lyne. The poor, dear old town has been incorporated since 1857, has recently greatly extended its municipal borders, and is rather proud of its municipal work. I have reason to know much of its doings, for its first Parliamentary Member was my great-uncle. Later, my father was its M.P., after having served as Councillor, Alderman and Mayor, as also an uncle. Later, again, my two brothers were closely connected with the municipal and educational government of Ashton-under-Lyne. Lastly, it was in this borough that I received all my practical local government training, serving for many years as a Poor Law Guardian, the first, and, for three years, the one woman member of the Board, and also as the County Council representative of one of the County Education areas, and one of the first women elected to serve on the Governing Board of the district hospital.

The record of family public service shows, I think, it must run in the blood, and may account to some extent for my interest in public service, though that I attribute in the main to the teaching and example of my father.

Yours sincerely,

BERTHA MASON.

NOTE.—We hear from Miss Marian Berry that Ilford also is an incorporated borough.—EDITOR, THE VOTE.

THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN CLERKS AND SECRETARIES.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries held its 24th Annual Delegates' Conference at the end of last month. Among many resolutions were one on Equal Suffrage and one on protective legislation. The former was passed unanimously and without discussion. The Secretary pointed out that it was important to do more than pass resolutions on this matter, and urged those present, in supporting the resolution, to undertake the organisation of at least one Hyde Park demonstration during the coming six months. The delegates present pledged themselves in support of this suggestion. The second resolution was worded as follows:—"This Conference is opposed to protective legislation on sex lines, and is in favour of equal occupational rights for both sexes." The mover referred to sex jealousy and sex antagonism as the root of protective legislation, and urged that the Association should at all times put forward a policy opposing any differentiation between sexes in industry. This was well supported, but a strong opposition pointed out that, while the Association had always put forward a policy claiming equal occupational rights for both sexes, they had, so far, supported the factory workers in their demand for protective legislation. The resolution was finally amended to: "That the Conference is in favour of equal occupational rights for both sexes," and carried.

JUMBLE SALE.

Don't forget to send your parcels of goods to 144, High Holborn, W.C., before May 5th. Proceeds of Sale on May 6th at Nine Elms to go to funds of the Women's Freedom League.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 1st, 1927. 3.30. Music. Lantern Lecture. R. A. Smith, U.P.S.A. 6.30. Maude Royden: "Christ's Sanity and our madness."

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